



Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning

Bear River District Fact Sheet



What is Hazard Mitigation?

"Hazard Mitigation" means to permanently reduce or alleviate the losses of life, injuries and property resulting from natural and human-made hazards through long-term strategies. These long-term strategies include planning, policy changes, programs, projects and other activities. Mitigation is the responsibility of individuals, private businesses and industries, state, local and federal governments.

What is the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000?

These new regulations administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), require that each county, city or town have an approved Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan in order to be eligible for post-disaster financial assistance in the event of a presidential disaster declaration as well as other ongoing FEMA hazard mitigation grants.

What is Required of My Community?

Counties, cities and towns are not mandated according to this new Federal Law to have approved mitigation plans; the program is voluntary. Congress indicates, however, that communities which do not have FEMA-approved mitigation plans will not qualify for certain kinds of federal disaster assistance.

The State of Utah's Department of Public Safety, Division of Comprehensive Emergency Management has chosen to utilize a regional planning approach to accomplish local mitigation planning goals in Utah. BRAG will complete the regional plan that will include consideration of all of the participating counties, cities and towns. FEMA will accept "regional mitigation plans as local plans, provided the counties, cities and towns provide input to the planning process and sign-off on the plans." Specifically, your participation will consist of passing a resolution of participation, appointing a local contact to represent your interests and provide information, and finally, adopt the plan before November 1, 2003.

What Are the Benefits For My Community?

- ! Insuring your community has full access to post-disaster federal funding.
- ! Potentially reduce the loss of life, property, essential services, critical facilities and economic hardship.
- ! Potentially reduce short-term and long-term recovery and reconstruction costs.
- ! Increase cooperation and communication within the community through the planning process.
- ! BRAG will take the lead, and with your cooperation, essentially complete the plan for you.